

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2 and 14 are canceled; and claims 1, 3, 13, 15, and 20 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-13, 15-24 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 2 of the final office action, the Examiner stated that Figs. 2-3 and 7 should be designated by a legend such as -Prior Art-. In response, the Applicant submits herewith a Transmittal of Corrected Drawing(s) amending Figs. 2-3 and 7 as suggested by the Examiner.

In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Applicant's Stated Own Prior Art." In the PTOL-326 form, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-12 and 14-24 are objected to. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending (now canceled) claim 2. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 2 was objected to, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 3-12 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 13

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of previously pending (now canceled) claim 14. As such, currently amended claim 13 is equivalent to previously pending claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 14 was objected to, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 13 is allowable. Since claims 15-24 depend variously from claim 13, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable. Note that claim 20 has been amended to correct its dependency.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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